



King County

Community Services Division

Department of Community and Human Services

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Veteran Citizens Levy Oversight Board (VCLOB)

Meeting Summary

May 16, 2013, 2–4 pm

Seattle, WA

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Francisco Ivarra at 2pm.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Stan Gunno, Oren Hadaller, Doug Hoople, Francisco Ivarra-Chair, Mary Kay Lewis, John Pruitt, Robert Stephens, Jr., Curtis Thompson, Ray Tomlinson, Bill Wood

Board Members Excused/Absent: Kathy Lewis

King County Staff Present: George Dignan, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Greg Ferland, DCHS; Bryan Fry, DCHS; Elaine Goddard, DCHS; Jon Hoskins, DCHS; Marcy Kubbs, DCHS; Pat Lemus, DCHS; Andrea LaFazia-Geraghty, DCHS; Linda Wells, DCHS; Paula Rhyne, Council staff

Guests: Scot Pondelick, Kris Setchfield

King County Regional Veterans Initiative (RVI)

Pat Lemus and Andrea LaFazia-Geraghty passed out draft recommendations for the Regional Veteran's Initiative and asked the Board to review and provide feedback to Francisco Ivarra at agifnc@aol.com by Monday, May 20. The document will be revised to reflect their feedback. The final document will be used to determine next steps for the RVI.

2012 Unspent Funds

Marcy Kubbs provided a 2012 expenditure report on the Veterans Levy that showed expenditures at the activity level. While a significant amount of levy funds remained unspent at the end of 2011, new expenditure monitoring procedures were implemented in 2012 resulting in 97 percent of the 2012 Levy annual allocation being spent by year end. For the Veterans Levy, there was a total of \$326,902 in unspent funds available for reprogramming and \$95,317 in Human Services Levy funds.

While the unspent Veterans Levy funding is currently being held by the DCHS and County Executive for potential use by the Regional Veterans Initiative (RVI), Marcy handed out a list of potential programs that could use these one-time unspent funds in the event they aren't needed to support the RVI. The Board was asked to consider what their funding priorities would be for these funds. Their recommendations are needed by the end of June.

Clarification was requested on whether Levy funded programs should include services to family members of veterans. Staff responded that the Levy's Service Improvement Plan which was adopted by ordinance by the King County Council includes family members of veterans as eligible for services.

Levy Activity Update

Bryan Fry from the Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division, gave a presentation on the Veterans Incarcerated Program and Emerging Programs for Justice Involved Veterans - Veterans Court. These programs use therapeutic courts to help divert veterans from the justice system into support services and programs to help change behaviors, reduce recidivism and improve lives. The Levy supports a court monitor who assesses the veterans entering the court system, recommends interventions, and monitors their progress.

Review of Meeting Summary

The March 28, 2013 meeting summary was approved as written.

VCLOB Chair's Report

Francisco Ivarra reiterated that board members should submit comments and suggestions to him regarding the Regional Veterans Initiative.

King County Staff Report

- Marcy Kubbs and Mary Kay Lewis attended a screening of a film, *Service-When Women Come Marching Home*, which will be aired on Channel 9 on May 26. More information can be found at www.servicethefilm.com.
- Congressman, Jim McDermott, has announced that he and Congressman Walter Jones (R-NC) have introduced H.R. 1492 to establish a Commission on America and Its Veterans. A copy of the announcement was distributed.
- Staff is researching the question of how many veterans may be residing in levy-supported low-income housing facilities and hopes to be able to report the results at the June meeting.

Old Business

- Board members considered a policy related to board absences. A motion was made to consider removal of a member from the board after 3 consecutive unexcused absences, or 5 or more unexcused absences in a year. Another motion was made to postpone a decision pending additional information from staff on language being considered by the Regional Human Services Levy Oversight Board related to board absences.
- Bill Wood would like additional focus on expanding veterans' employment and retraining services.

New Business

- The question was raised whether the WDVA could provide some staffing at a Veterans Service Office in Redmond.
- Stan Gunno made a motion to move meetings to an earlier time due to the heavy traffic members encounter coming to afternoon meetings. It was agreed that future meetings of the VCLOB would be held from 10:00 am to noon on the third Thursday of the month.

Public Comment

- The South King County Stand Down and Veteran Families Resource Fair will be held Saturday, June 8th. They need volunteers to help.
- The Alliance on Mental Health will sponsor a National Alliance on Mental Illness walk will be held on May 18th in Kirkland.

- A member of the public asked that the Board look into using extra funds for alcohol and drug dependency programs.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4 pm.